SUPERBOY-PRIME TIME STARTS HERE!

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SUPERMAN™

REIGN OF THE SUPERBOYS

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MORA
SÁNCHEZ

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FOR THEIR MOST EPIC ADVENTURE YET!

ON SALE IN APRIL

BATMAN • SUPERMAN

WORLD'S FINEST #50

OVERSIZE 40-PAGE ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

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PLUS: DON'T MISS THE "WEIRD AL" YANKOVIC VARIANT COVER!

WRITTEN BY MARK WAID
ART BY ADRÍAN GUTIÉRREZ AND
THE TRIUMPHANT RETURN OF DAN MORA

HI!

LISTEN, I KNOW WE ALL JUST WENT THROUGH ONE OF THOSE BIG EVENTS WE ALL LOVE, RIGHT? EVENT FATIGUE BLAH BLAH BLAH CASH GRABS BLAH BLAH BLAH...

ANYWAY, FOR THE NEXT FEW MONTHS, WHAT IF YOU AND I JUST HAVE A BUNCH OF FUN, OKAY? WE'LL GO ON A HERO'S JOURNEY, LEARN SOME VERY IMPORTANT LIFE LESSONS, AND BEAT UP SUPER-VILLAINS.

MAYBE MAKE SOME NEW FRIENDS ALONG THE WAY.

WHAT DO YOU SAY?

FLY WITH ME?

THE HEROES OF THE DC UNIVERSE HAVE EMERGED VICTORIOUS FROM THE KING OMEGA TOURNAMENT...THANKS TO SUPERMAN. KAL-EL OF KRYPTON SACRIFICED EVERYTHING TO BESTOW ALPHA ENERGY UPON EVERYONE AND BRING NEW HOPE TO THE COSMOS...AND DISAPPEARED IN THE PROCESS. AND NOW A NEW MAN OF METROPOLIS TAKES CENTER STAGE.

PRIME TIME
Part One

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SUPERMAN CREATED BY JERRY SIEGEL AND JOE SHUSTER. SUPERBOY CREATED BY JERRY SIEGEL. BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE JERRY SIEGEL FAMILY.

I'M NOT YOUR GRANDPA'S **SUPERMAN**, BASTICH!

KRAK!

THOOM

SLAM!

NO ONE MESSES WITH MY CITY!

TWOOM

POW

JUSTICE LEAGUE WATCHTOWER. A FEW HOURS EARLIER...

MY POWERS ARE GONE AGAIN?

YOUR BATTLE WITH DARKSEID'S LEGION MUST HAVE DRAINED THEM, *LOIS.**

IT'S FASCINATING. MY SCANS DON'T REVEAL WHETHER YOUR SUPERWOMAN ABILITIES' RETURN WAS TRIGGERED BECAUSE OF EXPOSURE TO CERTAIN ENERGIES, OR BY THE FEAR OF DANGER, WHETHER IT'S EXTERNAL OR INTERNAL STIMULUS.

I REALLY WISH YOU'D LET ME RUN MORE TESTS...

*AS IF YOU MISSED THE LAST FEW K.O. TIE-IN ISSUES... --PK

NOT YOU, TOO, MR. TERRIFIC. I ALREADY TOLD MERCY I DON'T WANT TO EXPERIMENT WITH PUTTING MYSELF IN DANGER TO SEE WHAT HAPPENS, OKAY? I MADE PEACE WITH NOT BEING ***SUPERWOMAN*** THE FIRST TIME.

I HAVE ENOUGH GOING ON IN MY LIFE.

ARE YOU OKAY? BATMAN AND WONDER WOMAN TOLD US WHAT THEY SAW. WHAT HAPPENED TO SUPERMAN AFTER HE REJECTED THE ***HEART OF APOKOLIPS*** AND PUSHED ***DARKSEID*** BACK...

THIS IS HARDLY THE FIRST TIME MY HUSBAND HAS BEEN...*GONE.*

WHETHER IT'S WARWORLD, SPACE, HELL, OTHER DIMENSIONS, EVEN *DEATH* ITSELF.

LET ME PUT IT THIS WAY...

IF *BRUCE AND DIANA* ARE NOT WORRIED, *I'M* NOT WORRIED.

HE'LL COME BACK TO ME. HE *ALWAYS* DOES.

I WISH I COULD BE SO SURE. BOOSTER GOLD IS HEADING UP THE SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATION...*

I THOUGHT HE WAS A BAD GUY.

ME TOO.

TERRIFIC, I APPRECIATE YOUR CONCERN, BUT...

UMM...WHAT IS GOING *ON* OVER THERE?

*AS SEEN IN *ACTION COMICS* #1096! --JG

I'D LIKE TO SEE HIM IN A TRENCH COAT.

I THINK I KNOW WHAT THE *S* STANDS FOR...

IS THAT A SCAR OR A TATTOO?

IT'S A BRAND HE GAVE *HIMSELF.* HE'S A PSYCHO.

BUT I *LIKE* THE PSYCHOS...

THAT BRINGS US TO THE *CHALLENGE* WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT, LOIS.

CHALLENGE IS A FANCY WAY OF SAYING *PROBLEM...*

OH, HEY, LOIS. SORRY.

GOTTA GO. BYEEEE.

AWKWARD...

WHAT ARE YOU ALL...

:SIGH...:

10 Months Found:

TOO EASY.

LET'S TEST HOW FAST I AM NEXT.

AS UNBELIEVABLE AS IT SOUNDS...

...PRIME HELPED US *STOP DARKSEID,* TERRIFIC.

I KNOW. BUT HE CAN'T LIVE HERE AT THE WATCHTOWER.

WHY NOT?

DOES ANYONE KNOW WHERE FIRE *AND* ICE ARE? I JUST WANT TO SAY *HEY.*

HISTORY, TIME, AND SPACE HAVE BEEN REWRITTEN A FEW TIMES, AND THAT WORKS IN HIS FAVOR...*HOWEVER.*

"PEOPLE **REMEMBER** WHAT PRIME DID.

"THE DEATHS, THE BRUTALITY, THE RECKLESSNESS.

"PRIME IS SEEN AS A DANGER AND NOT WELCOME ON THE WATCHTOWER."

TALK TO HIM. HE WANTS TO REDEEM HIMSELF.

WITHOUT SUPERMAN HERE TO VOUCH FOR HIM...

...NOT EVERYONE IS WILLING TO GIVE HIM THAT SECOND CHANCE.

BUT IT'S NOT ***THAT PART*** THAT CONCERNS ME, LOIS.

HAS ANYONE SEEN MY CAPE?

"PRIME IS FROM ANOTHER WORLD IN THE MULTIVERSE. ONE WHERE **WE** ARE ***FICTIONAL CHARACTERS.***"

COMIC BOOK CHARACTERS.

YES. EXACTLY. HE HAS READ OUR ENTIRE COLLECTIVE LIVES AS STORIES.

HE KNOWS THINGS ABOUT US, OUR HISTORY... HE'S WITNESSED SOME OF OUR BEST AND WORST MOMENTS.

INTIMATE PARTS OF OUR LIVES THAT NO ONE ELSE SHOULD KNOW.

WHO WANTS TO GO ON PATROL TOGETHER? SMACK AROUND A COUPLE OF BADDIES?

"IF OUR FILES ON HIM ARE ACCURATE, PRIME CAN BREAK REALITY WITH A SINGLE PUNCH. BUT HIS ***KNOWLEDGE*** OF OUR UNIVERSE IS HIS ***REAL POWER.***

"IMAGINE IF SOMEONE FOUND THAT OUT AND USED IT AGAINST US?

MY FIRST IMPULSE IS TO LOCK HIM UP AGAIN, BUT THAT COULD BE CORNERING A WILD ANIMAL IN A CAGE...

NO, YOU'RE RIGHT...I KNOW WHAT WE NEED TO DO...

METROPOLIS.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN I GOTTA GET A JOB?

I DON'T NEED A JOB. I'M SUPERMAN.

I'LL JUST FIND SOME TREASURE, OR DIAMONDS. CASH THOSE IN AND FOCUS ON BEING A SUPERHERO.

IS THAT WHAT SUPERMAN WOULD DO?

=SIGH= NO. NO, I GUESS NOT.

I COULD GET YOU A JOB AT THE *DAILY PLANET*. MAYBE IN THE MAIL ROOM.

SERIOUSLY? LOOK AT ME. THAT'S PLAYING WITH FIRE. HOW LONG BEFORE PEOPLE ASK WHY I LOOK SO MUCH LIKE A YOUNG ***CLARK KENT*** FROM ***THIS*** WORLD?

PEOPLE ALREADY SAID THAT BACK HOME.

DO YOU ***WANT*** TO GO HOME?

I CAN'T WITHOUT SMASHING MY WAY THROUGH REALITY. AND WITHOUT A GUIDE... THAT CAN GET ***DANGEROUS.***

BUT I DON'T WANT TO GO HOME. I WANT TO STAY ***HERE.***

EVERY TIME I'VE BEEN IN ***THIS*** REALITY IT WAS DURING SOME ***WAR*** OR ***CROSSOVER*** OR ***COSMIC EVENT.*** I WANT TO, Y'KNOW... JUST ***LIVE*** FOR A BIT. SEE THE SIGHTS...

SO AFTER YOU GET A JOB, YOU CAN GET AN APARTMENT.

LOIS...I'VE ONLY EVER LIVED IN TWO PLACES IN MY LIFE.

MY PARENTS' HOUSE...AND PRISON.

THIS IS MY FIRST TIME REALLY ON MY OWN. I KNOW PEOPLE STILL...THINK I'M SOME MASS MURDERER... BUT...

BUT... IF YOU WANT TO PROVE YOU CAN BE REDEEMED, I THINK YOU NEED TO THINK ABOUT CLARK. ***WHAT WOULD CLARK DO?***

WAIT! I GOT IT! I KNOW WHAT I WANT!

"I WANT TO SHOW EVERYONE THAT I CAN BE THE GREATEST SUPERHERO THE WORLD HAS EVER KNOWN.

"THAT I CAN BE *SUPERMAN.*

"BEING SUPERMAN IS EASY, RIGHT? JUST DO THE RIGHT THING ALL THE TIME.

"AND I'M LIKE BAGGAGE-LESS SUPERMAN. NO WIFE AND NO KIDS, *NO OFFENSE*, SO PEOPLE WILL LOVE IT.

"THEN I CAN BE A MEMBER OF THE *JUSTICE LEAGUE.*

"HANG WITH BATMAN AND WONDER WOMAN AS A NEW *TRINITY.*

"GET A CUTE *VARIANT* OR TWO.

"PROVE TO *EVERYONE* THAT I CAN BE *GOOD.*

"AND IF I DO ALL THAT, MAYBE, JUST MAYBE...

"...I CAN GET MY VERY OWN *#1 ISSUE.*"

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY YOUR OWN #1?

BOOM!

OH, YOU HEAR THAT SOUND? IT'S *PRIME TIME!*

DON'T HURT ANYONE!

I'M NOT THAT GUY ANYMORE!

DAILY PLANET

SUPERMAN, SUPERMAN. DOING ANYTHING A SUPER CAN.

PUNCH A BAD GUY, ANY SIZE. YOU'RE IN FOR A BIG SURPRISE!

WATCH OUT!

HERE COMES THE *SUPERMAN!*

METROPOLIS!

YOUR PRECIOUS MAN OF STEEL HAS ABANDONED YOU.

I AM THE MIGHTY HERALD OF WHAT IS TO COME! THE NEW FUTURE FOR HUMANITY.

YOUR GOLDEN CITY OF PROGRESS IS ***MINE*** NOW. YOU WILL BOW TO ME AND BRING ME ALL YOUR RICHES.

DANG, I HAVEN'T SEEN ***IGNITION*** IN YEARS. ***DEEP CUT!***

SOMEONE BUSTED OUT THEIR DC ENCYCLOPEDIA!

BE THE FIRST TO FALL TO MY FIRE, PRETENDER!

FWHAP

YOU ARE SO PEAK LATE-'90S DESIGN. ***I LOVE IT.***

THOOM THOOM THOOM THOOM

DAMN! AND YOU CAN TAKE A *PUNCH* TOO! HAHA!

I HAVE BATTLED THE *REAL* SUPERMAN TO A STANDSTILL.

EMPERORS, GODS, AND INTERDIMENSIONAL BEINGS FEAR ME.

SOME *BOY* IS NO THREAT.

OH YEAH, HOW ABOUT I SHOW YOU WHAT I DO BEST...AND KICK YOUR...

CLEEEEEEEK

IT'S COMING DOWN! RUN!

MOMMY!

LOOK AT YOU. ALREADY DISTRACTED. YOU COULD NEVER DO WHAT SUPERMAN DOES. NOW PUT UP OR SHUT UP, BOY.

WHAT WOULD SUPERMAN DO...?

ZAP

THERE YA GO, KID.

THAT DOG USED TO ANNOY ME BUT NOW HE'S ONE OF MY--

FWOOM!

HA! GOT YOU!

PERHAPS THIS BATTLE IS A WASTE OF TIME.

I CAN UNLEASH NUCLEAR RAIN ON THE CITY. YOU'LL ALL DIE A VERY SLOW DEATH.

STOP MAKING ME LOOK BAD!
YOU ARE WEAK, BOY!
TOO MUCH LIKE SUPERMAN!
MOVE IT OR LOSE IT!
I'M NOT YOUR GRANDPA'S SUPERMAN, BASTICH!
KRAK!
FHOOM!
WHOOSH!
NO ONE MESSES WITH MY CITY!
SLAM!
POW!
POW!
YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY... YOU HIT THEM UNTIL THEY CAN'T GET UP...
PRIME! HE'S DOWN... STOP!
UF UF UF UF, ACTUALLY, LOIS...
...MAYBE I'M NOT LIKE SUPERMAN AT ALL...

METROPOLIS IS MINE!

AND I WILL KILL ANYONE WHO SAYS DIFFERENTLY!

WAIT... WHAT DID I JUST DO?

NO...NO NO. THIS ISN'T ME.

NOT ANYMORE...

WAIT, THAT WAS ALL IN MY HEAD? WHAT JUST--

YAY! GO SUPERMAN!

HELL YEAH.

HE KICKED HIS ASS. I LOVE TO SEE SUPERMAN SHOW OFF HOW STRONG HE IS. HIT HIM AGAIN!

KISS MY BABY!

BEATDOWN CITY, BABY! YOU SEE HOW HARD HE HIT THAT GUY?!

I...THANK YOU. THANK YOU, CITIZENS OF METROPOLIS.

I DO IT ALL FOR YOU.

HM...WHAT WOULD CLARK DO...?

ASTEROID COMICS

YOU CAN'T JUST READ COMICS ALL DAY, OKAY?

HELP WANTED!

WE NEED ALL THE BOOKS IN THE BACK ROOM IN ORDER.

YOU HAVEN'T ORGANIZED THE BOXES SINCE WE OPENED, BOSS.

THAT'S THE POINT. I NEED TO KNOW WHAT IS BACK THERE. IT COULD ALL FILL THE DOLLAR BINS OR GET GRADED TO POST ONLINE TO SELL.

LISTEN, I WILL DO IT AS SOON AS I FIGURE OUT WHO THE ARTIST WAS ON *FLASH COMICS* #1...

IT WAS HARRY LAMPERT. GARDNER FOX WROTE IT, BUT HARRY DREW IT...

UM. MY NAME IS...***CK.*** AND...I SAW YOUR HELP-WANTED SIGN?

SUPERMAN SAVES THE DAY!

LIKE I'M GONNA HIRE THE FIRST FANBOY WHO WALKS THROUGH THE DOOR.

I TELL YA WHAT. LET'S SEE HOW LONG IT TAKES YOU TO MAKE THOSE BAGS AND BOARDS AND THEN I'LL CONSIDER IT.

THP THP THP THP THP THP THP THP

LISTEN, I'M GLAD YOU KEEP UP WITH THE COMICS.

BUT YOU STILL NEED TO--

DONE.

I'D ***LOVE*** TO ORGANIZE YOUR COMICS IN THE BACK, TOO. THAT SOUNDS ***FUN.***

YOU'RE HIRED.

"ARE YOU SURE THIS IS ALL YOU NEED?"

JUST BOXES OF COMIC BOOKS?

SUPERMAN

CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT THEM.

ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO LIVE... *HERE?*

I'VE CRASHED IN WORSE PLACES, LOIS. AN *OAN PRISON* IS *NO JOKE,* BY THE WAY.

I GOT A JOB NOW, JUST LIKE YOU SAID, SO SOON I'LL BUY SOME FURNITURE AND ALL THAT ADULT JUNK. THE COMICS SHOP OWNER GAVE ME *THIS* TO GET CAUGHT UP ON CURRENT COMICS. I'LL BE FINE.

WAS HERE

WELCOME TO THE BUILDING, NEIGHBOR.

3A

YEAH, HI. DO YOU NEED ANY HELP GETTING SETTLED IN?

NO THANK YOU, MA'AMS. I GOT IT.

PRIME, UM...

TERRIFIC AND THE JUSTICE LEAGUE WILL BE KEEPING AN EYE ON YOU.

BUT IF YOU NEED ANYTHING... YOU CAN ALWAYS *CALL ME,* OKAY?

YOU'RE THE BEST, LOIS. THAT'S WHY YOU HAD A SERIES LAST OVER A HUNDRED ISSUES ONCE.

I HOPE YOU GET YOUR OWN BOOK AGAIN SOON. A *DAILY PLANET* SPECIAL OR SOMETHING.

SEE YOU IN THE FUNNY PAGES.

CLICK

...I HOPE THIS IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO...

OKAY, HOME SWEET HOME.

I CAN DO THIS.

I CAN BE MORE THAN JUST A SUPERHERO.

I CAN HAVE A ***REAL LIFE.*** WITH A JOB. APARTMENT. FRIENDS.

I'LL SHOW ***EVERYONE*** THAT I'VE CHANGED.

THEY'LL SEE I'M LIKE THE JASON TODD OF THE SUPERMAN FAMILY. BUT LESS EMO.

TIME TO CATCH UP ON MY READING.

EVER SINCE I GOT HERE, I'VE FELT LIKE MY MEMORY OF THIS WORLD HAS BEEN--

HELP!

PRIME TIME.

RRIIP!

WHOOSH

I CAN HEAR MY OWN THEME SONG NOW!

HM. WELL, THAT'S BLOODY INTERESTING, AIN'T IT?

A NEW KIND OF SUPERMAN TO PLAY WITH.

ONE WHO HAS ALL THE SECRETS OF THIS UNIVERSE...

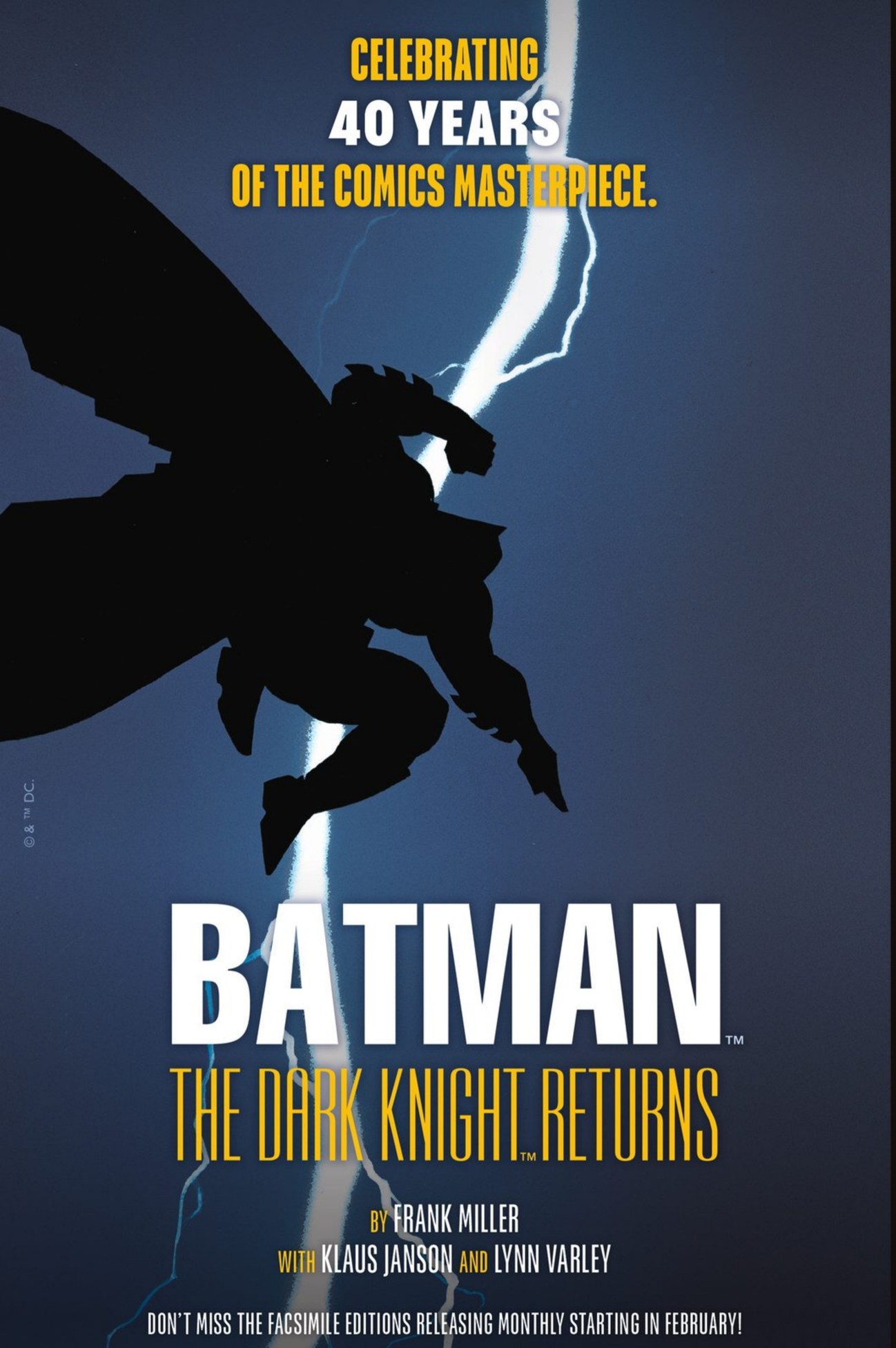
IT'S TIME FOR A *BRITISH INVASION.*

DAILY PLANET

WHAT'RE *YOU* LOOKING AT?

WHAT INDEED, MANCHESTER BLACK?!

BE HERE NEXT MONTH, DEAR READER, FOR THE NEXT INSTALLMENT IN THE PRIME SAGA AS YOUR NEW SUPERMAN GOES ON A SIGHTSEEING TOUR OF THE DC UNIVERSE!



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WITH KLAUS JANSON AND LYNN VARLEY

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"*THE DARK KNIGHT RETURNS* MADE BEING A COMICS FAN FEEL POWERFUL."
RAFAEL GRAMPÁ | WRITER/ARTIST, *BATMAN: GARGOYLE OF GOTHAM*

"IT ABSOLUTELY BLEW MY MIND. FRANK MILLER AUTHENTICATED THE DARK KNIGHT AS THE BRIGHTEST STAR IN THE DC FIRMAMENT."
MARK WAID | WRITER, *ACTION COMICS*

BATMAN 40 THE DARK KNIGHT RETURNS

DC NATION SPOTLIGHT ON

SUPERGIRL WOMAN OF TOMORROW

INTERVIEW WITH TOM KING

Supergirl: Woman of Tomorrow has quickly become a modern classic now headed to the big screen this June! A 2023 Hugo Award finalist and one of the New York Public Library's Best Books for Adults in 2022, the character-defining sci-fi/fantasy masterpiece continues to reach both dedicated comics fans and first-time readers. Writer Tom King reflects on the book's emotional depth, its inspirations, and the transcendent visual world artist Bilquis Evely and colorist Matheus Lopes brought to life.

How would you describe *Supergirl: Woman of Tomorrow*?

Tom King: It was a story very much inspired by old Westerns and ancient literature. It's about a young girl named Ruthye. Her father is killed and she's trying to seek revenge for that killing. Supergirl finds Ruthye and they find something in each other, a loss they've both experienced. They go on this mission and Ruthye thinks she's going on a mission of revenge and Supergirl thinks she's going off to save this young girl from her emotions, that she's just going to bring justice and not revenge. As the two of them go through the trials and tribulations of space, they learn the other's perspective. Supergirl learns that pain could lead to anger, and Ruthye learns how anger could lead to redemption.

We can't talk about Supergirl without talking about the amazing art. What was the experience like seeing the visuals come together?

TK: I've worked with some of the best artists in comics, and lord knows Bilquis Evely is one of them. I had no idea the transcendence that she, along with Matheus Lopes, would put into those pages. They elevated this book in a way that few artists have done in the history of comics.

Bilquis has multiple talents and they're all highlighted in this book. One of them is world-building. No one makes these beautiful backgrounds that seem to come alive, that seem to pour out from a dream you never knew you had. Another thing she brings is such emotional depth to her character work.

I mean if you look at the final cover, it's Supergirl standing on a beach staring out, which is basically the whole comic in her expression, and no one puts more lines in anything like Bilquis does, but there's like seven lines that define her face. In those seven lines, you see the entire history of this character. You see her family dying, you see the hope of her father pushing her away. You see the conflict, the ability to turn all that pain into hope into love, all in one image, all in seven lines. I mean, it's a miracle.

There are so many ways to experience this story. Let's talk about it!

TK: The magic of this book is that you can give it to anybody. You could give it to someone who's read comics for 40 years and knows this character, knows how honest we are to her, and you could give it to someone who's never read a panel of a comic book. DC Comics has been kind enough to put it in a lot of places that new readers can find it. If you want the whole big experience, there's a beautiful oversize hardcover which has extra material of my scripts and extra art. There's a softcover of the book where you could read it and disappear from the world for a while, go into your adventure that'll make you both laugh and cry and be mad and have fun.

There's also a DC Compact Comics edition. It looks like a small book, sits beautifully on your shelf. You can pick one up from the shop, hand it to your daughter, and suddenly she has something to read in the car on the way home. Next thing you know, she's a fan of this book and a fan of the medium.

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